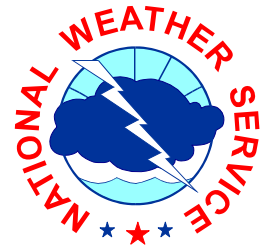




**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**



DECEMBER 17, 2002

The Western Region Headquarter's staff wishes you a joyous holiday season and a happy new year.

DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season: Vickie and I would like to wish all of you a happy and joyous holiday season. We know many of you will have to work, spending time away from your families and loved ones when you would rather be home. Unfortunately, it is part of job that goes along with protecting the citizens of this country and providing them information that makes their lives safer. Although we probably do not say it enough, we appreciate the sacrifices you make in working shiftwork and having to work holidays to carry out the NWS mission. Both of us worked shiftwork in earlier years, and we have tried not to forget how hard it is on you and your families or friends to work shifts year in and year out. Thanks for your hard work and dedication and the great job you all do, both in the field and Western Region Headquarters! And the next paragraph attests to the excellent job everyone did last weekend!

Storm Outbreak: A series of powerful storms moved onshore over northern and central California, Friday, December 13, and brought heavy rain, high surf, and high winds to northern California and western Nevada through Saturday the 14th. High winds were also noted over much of the Pacific Northwest. During this period, the northern coastal California mountains received up to 15 inches of rain and some valley locations in the Sacramento Valley noted 6 inches of rain in 24 hours. Wind gusts to 80 mph were common in the aforementioned areas and exceeded 100 mph in the Sierra Nevada. The winds caused widespread damage to roofs and downed power lines. Upwards of 125,000 people were without power in the San Francisco Bay Area by Saturday morning. Reno, Nevada noted an all-time wind gust of 82 mph which interrupted flight operations. High wind and heavy rain redeveloped on Sunday and Monday and spread into southern California with upwards of 300,000 people without power at times in central California. Urban and small stream flooding were noted in many locations in California, and resulted in three deaths in Carlsbad, California, Monday evening when a vehicle drove through a flooded street. Western Region offices did their usual great job! WFOs began issuing special weather statements alerting the public to the storm series four days prior to the event. Numerous watches and warnings were issued with considerable lead time. Congratulations to the many folks who worked long hours during the event and provided excellent services to our customers.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

STATEMENT OF THE WEEK: The following NPW from WFO Sacramento, California, written by Lead Forecaster Dave Rowe, is one of many excellent products issued last weekend.

WWWWWUS76 KSTO 132312
NPWSTO

URGENT - WEATHER MESSAGE
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SACRAMENTO CA
330 PM PST FRI DEC 13 2002

CAZ013-014-063-064-141200-
SHASTA LAKE AREA/NORTHERN SHASTA COUNTY-
BURNEY BASIN/EASTERN SHASTA COUNTY-
MOUNTAINS SOUTHWESTERN SHASTA COUNTY TO NORTHERN LAKE COUNTY-
CLEAR LAKE/SOUTHERN LAKE COUNTY-
330 PM PST FRI 13 2002

...THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAS ISSUED A HIGH WIND WARNING FOR TONIGHT AND SATURDAY FOR THE INTERIOR COAST RANGE NORTH OF CLEAR LAKE...THE MOUNTAINS OF SHASTA COUNTY...AND THE BURNEY BASIN...

AREAS OF SOUTHEAST WINDS WILL INCREASE TO 30 TO 40 MPH WITH GUSTS OF 60 TO 70 MPH POSSIBLE. THESE STRONG WINDS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE DAY ON SATURDAY BEFORE DROPPING OFF SATURDAY EVENING. RESIDENTS ARE ADVISED TO BE READY FOR THE STRONG WINDS BY SECURING LOOSE OBJECTS AND BEING PREPARED FOR POSSIBLE POWER OUTAGES.

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CAZ015>018-066-141200-
NORTHERN SACRAMENTO VALLEY-CENTRAL SACRAMENTO VALLEY-
SOUTHERN SACRAMENTO VALLEY-CARQUINEZ STRAIT AND DELTA-
EAST FOOTHILLS/NORTH SACRAMENTO VALLEY-
330 PM PST FRI 13 2002

...THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAS ISSUED A WIND ADVISORY FOR THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY...CARQUINEZ STRAIT AND DELTA...AND EASTERN FOOTHILLS OF THE NORTHERN SACRAMENTO VALLEY FOR TONIGHT...

...HIGH WIND WATCH CONTINUES FOR SATURDAY...

STRONG SOUTHERLY WINDS OF 25 TO 35 MPH WITH GUSTS OF 40 TO 50 MPH WILL DEVELOP ACROSS THE REGION TONIGHT. EVEN STRONGER WINDS ARE POSSIBLE ON SATURDAY AS A COLD FRONT MOVES THROUGH NORTHERN

CALIFORNIA. THE WINDS ARE EXPECTED TO SLACKEN OFF BY SATURDAY EVENING. RESIDENTS ARE ADVISED TO BE READY FOR THE STRONG WINDS BY SECURING LOOSE OBJECTS AND BEING PREPARED FOR POSSIBLE POWER OUTAGES.

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CAZ019-067-141200-
NORTHERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY-MOTHERLODE-
330 PM PST FRI 13 2002

...THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IS CONTINUING THE HIGH WIND WATCH FOR THE NORTHERN SAN JOAQUIN AND MOTHERLODE FOR SATURDAY...

STRONG SOUTHERLY WINDS OF 30 TO 40 MPH WITH GUSTS OVER 50 MPH ARE POSSIBLE ON SATURDAY AS A COLD FRONT MOVES THROUGH THE REGION. WINDS ARE EXPECTED TO DECREASE SATURDAY EVENING. RESIDENTS ARE ADVISED TO BE READY FOR THE STRONG WINDS BY SECURING LOOSE OBJECTS AND BEING PREPARED FOR POSSIBLE POWER OUTAGES.

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HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES

Hydrologic Services Program Policy Directives: All national policy for the hydrologic services program was converted from the Weather Service Operations Manual E-Chapters to the National Directives System (NDS) on or before September 30, 2002. Policy on the hydrologic services program is now contained under Policy Directive 10-9 "Hydrologic Services Program." The Western Region Hydrologic and Climate Services Division (HCSD) has been actively working on updating and converting the applicable Western Region Operations Manual Letters (ROMLs) to Western Region Supplements to go with the new NDS Instructions filed under Policy Directive 10-9. Some of this work has come to completion with the posting on the National Directive System (NDS) Web site of the following Western Region Supplements. This posting occurred on Friday, December 13, 2002.

<u>Supplement #</u>	<u>Name</u>
4-2002	Authorization for New and/or Expanded Hydrologic Services
5-2002	Responsibilities Related to Dam Failures
6-2002	Hydrologic Responsibilities at WFOs Without Service Hydrologists
7-2002	Definitions of Hydrologic Product Categories
8-2002	Water Supply Verification
9-2002	Western Region Drought Related Services and Support
10-2002	WFO Public Hydrologic Products
11-2002	Western Region RFC Back-up

In addition, three Western Region ROMLs will be rescinded on January 1, 2003. These ROMLs are:

ROML #	Name
W-04-94	Additional Data for WS Form E19
W-12-99	Quality Control and Monitoring of Hydrometeorological Data
W-04-00	Hydrologic Program Responsibilities

The contents of these ROMLs have been superseded by policy contained in the National Weather Service Instructions 10-911 and 10-921.

Work will continue on the conversion of the rest of the existing hydrology program ROMLs to Supplements in the new directives system. HCSD will keep you posted on the progress.

National Hydrologic Program Manager's Conference: The first-ever national gathering of hydrologic program managers occurred December 3-6 in New Orleans. Jack Kelly and other key NWSH personnel opened the conference by discussing the future of our business and amplifying the NWS vision to improve services. Partnering, customer communications, and AHPS were just a few of the presented topics in this forum where ideas and best practices beyond regional boundaries were easily shared for discussion. To underscore the significance of hydrologic program management, a full day was utilized to focus on maximizing leadership, providing superior customer service, and team building. The conference wrapped up with a breakout session where topics that included WHFS capabilities, the new dam catalog and Dambreak, and status of regional teams were addressed by the WR hydrologic program managers.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

First Two WES TA-Lites: Kudos to Joe Solomon and Jon Mittelstadt, WFO Pendleton, for producing the first winter WES TA-Lite from one of their office's two winter season WES simulations. The weather event was a Columbia Basin high wind episode and the TA-Lite did an excellent job of emphasizing the dynamics and mechanics of the event versus model performance.

Congratulations also to Ivory Small and Daniel Atkin, WFO San Diego, for their WES TA-Lite on a late summer severe thunderstorm event in southern California which illustrates how a deformation zone assists in the development of severe weather.

These TA-Lites can be found in the usual TA-Lite location on the WR home page.

GFE Workshop: OCWSS/WR will be co-sponsoring a GFE/IFPS workshop January 14-16, 2003. The workshop will focus on complex terrain/coastal issues with emphasis on the practical sharing of information. One (1) IFPS Focal point from each WR office, plus participants from the Alaska Region, Pacific Region, and bordering mountain offices (Denver/Grand Junction/Riverton/Albuquerque) are expected. For more information, please contact Andy Edman (WR/SSD) or Brian Motta (OCWSS/Boulder).

New WRHQ Main Web Page: Chelsea Leader recently modified and updated the Western Region Headquarter Web page. The design team was lead by Michelle Schmidt.

HWO Update: As a reminder to the offices, the Hazardous Weather Outlook product will not be highlighted on the Web map as a green area if one of the two phrases is used.

NO HAZARDOUS WEATHER IS EXPECTED AT THIS TIME.

THE PROBABILITY FOR WIDESPREAD HAZARDOUS WEATHER IS LOW.

The Web farm software checks for an exact match. If a word is misspelled or the exact phrase is not used, such as OF instead of FOR, the software will display the HWO as a green area on the office total weather map.

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

AWIPS Comms Processor and 12 Port Hub Excess Instructions: In an effort to facilitate better coordination with Engineering Handbook No. 13, AWIPS Information Note 15, guidance on disposing replaced AWIPS hardware at WR sites are asked to follow guidance recently disseminated by WR Systems Operation Division (SOD) EPM Patrick Fahy. All property custodians are asked to fill out a WASC Excess Worksheet instead of the SF-120 mentioned in AWIPS Information Note 15. The WASC excess worksheet is designed to make it easier for sites to report excess property items. Therefore, the SF-120 Report of Excess Property, does not need to be completed for AWIPS Information Note 15.

WR FY03 Government Information Security Reform Act (GISRA) Completion: The mandatory WR FY03 GISRA self-assessments have been completed by all Western Region sites. Thanks very much for your efforts in successfully meeting the NWS deadline.

Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) Certification: WRH SOD EPM Patrick Fahy has successfully completed a rigorous testing, endorsement, and audit process and was certified as a CISSP by the International Information System Security Certification Consortium (ISC)2. The CISSP certification is considered to be the Gold Standard for IT Security Certification. Currently, there are 13,397 CISSPs in the world. Congratulations to Pat on attaining this certification.

NWR Transmitter Training: RMS Joe Lachacz and WFO San Francisco ESA Sean Wink attended a one-week NWR Armstrong Transmitter maintenance training course in upstate New York. The training provided good information for troubleshooting and support of the new Armstrong NWR Transmitter.

Show Low NWR Site Upgrade: In coordination with RMS Joe Lachacz, Donnie King, WFO Flagstaff Electronics Technician, installed a power amp, high power cavity, and new cable at the Show Low NWR site. The newly installed equipment is now operating at full capacity of 300 watts, increasing coverage into the Show Low service area. Thanks to Joe and Donnie for the great job at Show Low.

Safety Training: All Senior Executives and GS-15 supervisors will be required to complete the Dupont Safety Training Course "Managing Safety: Systems that Work for Senior Leaders". All other supervisors and managers will be required to attend the four-hour Stop Taking Avoidable Risks (STAR) course which WR SOD will coordinate. Further details are forthcoming.

RRS Training Meeting: RMS Jack Lauritzen attended a Radiosonde Replacement System (RRS) training meeting at the NWSTC in Kansas City. The outcome of the meeting was the suggested implementation of a five-day training class. Students will be scheduled for the course in coordination with the office RRS installation schedule. Operations training will be provided via CD-ROM and on-site training at the time of installation.

ABOUT OUR STAFF

WFO Pocatello Participates in the "Toys for Tots" Program: WFO Pocatello's ASA, Donna Mills, came up with the idea for our National Weather Service Office to do something that pertained to "giving" during the holiday season. She devised a plan for our office staff members to volunteer to purchase new toys that could be given to the local "Toys for Tots" program. I'm happy to report that last Friday, December 13, Donna delivered four large plastic bags full of new toys to the Marines receiving center. The entire staff at NWS Pocatello should be commended for their generous donation of gifts. What a wonderful way to share the spirit of the season that will give children a Merry Christmas. Donna said it best herself, "what a wonderful concept....our National Weather Service family helping other families!"

WRH Donates to Local Charities: During the past year, Administrative Management Division in Western Region Headquarters has been handling soda and water sales to earn funds to donate at Christmas. Through the joint efforts of WRH personnel, \$700 was raised through these sales. This week, two \$350 checks were sent to the Utah Food Bank and to The Road Home (formerly Traveler's Aid Society). This practice will continue and we're looking forward to another great year of raising money for charity.

WFO Great Falls Celebrates the Holidays: Fifty current and retired NWS employees and their families attended the annual Great Falls, Mt. Holiday Potluck Party on December 11. The group represented a wide range of meteorological experience. The most recently hired NWS employee had 1 year and 4 months of NWS service...only 32 years to go until he's eligible for retirement! The retiree with the longest period of service worked as a meteorologist for 42 years. His first years salary in 1941...\$1440.00.